

Iowa Council on Homelessness
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2006

Voting Members Present:

Allan Axeen – HACAP	Charles Leist – Department of Human Services
Virginia Beane – Attorney General’s Office	Alice Mollett – Crossroads Women’s Shelter
Bill Brand – Department of Human Rights	Shelly Morlock – Department of Corrections
Christine Canganelli – Shelter House	Patrick Nestvedt – Catholic Charities
Dennis Dietz – Iowa Finance Authority	Donna Phillips – Department of Justice
Kelli Foltz – Department of Veteran Affairs	Kate Ridge – John Lewis Coffee Shop
Diane Foss – Dept. of Economic Development	Steffani Simbric – Cedar Valley Friends of the Family
Jeff Gronstal – Department of Public Health	Janell Staats – MATURA Action Corporation
Doug Keast – Dept of Workforce Development	Nicki Stajcar – Department of Elder Affairs
Anne Kinsel – Selzer & Company	Bob Steben – Department of Veteran Affairs
Amy Knudsen – Iowa Coalition for Housing & Homeless	Dean Wright – Drake University

Voting Members Absent:

Mario Hayslett – Criminal Justice Ministries	Ray Morley – Department of Education
Ann Hearn – Linn County Community Services	Kevin Squires
Bill Holvoet – Community Action of SE Iowa	Judy Songer – SIEDA Community Action
Gordon Miller – Department of Public Safety	Donald Tyne – Linn County Veteran’s Affairs

Others Present:

Donna Anthony – Senator Harkin’s Office	Lisa Hammer – Youth and Shelter Services
Bill Brown – Dept of Human Rights	Kelly Luschen – Council on Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence
Michelle Brown – Maria House	Jenny Manders – Project Concern
Sister Charla Bulko – Domestic Violence Program	Sherry McDonald – Maria House
Julie Eberbach – Iowa Institute for Community Alliances	Roberta Milinsky – Youth & Shelter Services
Jim Elliot – Iowa Legal Aid	Matt Otte – Community Mental Health PATH Program
Mariliegh Fisher – Community Housing Initiative	Michelle Spencer – Northern Lights Homeless Shelter
Eddie Frazier – Primary Healthcare	Tony Smithart – Department of Labor
Barry Gallagher – Vera French Mental Health Center	Paul Stanfield – Home Connection
Erin Haafke – Department of Elder Affairs	Pauline Sturgeon – Ottumwa Community Outreach
Kyle Hertsler – Linn County Community Services	Joey Van Zomoren – Northern Lights Homeless Shelter
Sister Carole Karwoski – Theresa Shelter	
Cheryl Kimball – Youth & Shelter Services	
Joe Leto – Abbey Center for Community Mental Health	

Iowa Finance Authority Staff:

Lyle Schwery – Homeless Programs Coordinator	Karen Winchester – Administrative Assistant
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Call to Order & Introduction

Chairman Wright called the March 17, 2006 meeting of the Iowa Council for Homelessness to order at 10:08 a.m. A quorum was not established.

Introductions were made by those present at the host site and at the remote ICN locations.

Executive Committee Report

Dean Wright, Chair of the Executive Committee, reported the Committee has met and has determined the Committee's normal meeting time will be the 2nd Thursday of each month the Council has a meeting.

Chairman Wright reported the HMIS Ad Hoc Committee, which consists of Julie Eberbach, Diane Foss, and Virginia Beane, met and is waiting for more action to be taken before they will be able to meet again. Diane Foss informed the Council that this Committee was informed it could not ask the Attorney General's Office for an Opinion, only an elected official could ask for this information.

Lyle Schwery was advised by staff from the Governor's Office to pass a resolution asking the Governor to ask for this Opinion.

Chairman Wright informed the Council that he will make a formal request to the Attorney General's Office via the Governor's Office for this Opinion.

Chairman Wright reported to the Council that the Homeless Plan was still in the drafting process and will be finished by the May meeting.

Continuum of Care Committee Report

Amy Knudsen, Chair of the Continuum of Care Committee, reported to the Council the General Information portion of the Super NOFA has been released. The CoC Application is due May 25, 2006 this year.

Lyle Schwery reported a great deal of changes to the CoC Application this year. These changes are mostly in preparation of the Application being entirely electronic next year. A lot of the narrative sections have been replaced with check-boxes and charts. The amount of money available this year is a few thousand dollars higher than last year. The Balance of State's pro rata need for 96 counties and 7 entitlement cities is \$4,357,901.00.

There will be a training session for completing the Application on March 24, 2006 via the ICN. The first submission of the Application is due April 7, 2006. The final submission including Exhibit 1, Exhibit 2, and all supporting documents will be due May 5, 2006. At the May 19, 2006 Council meeting, the Application will be submitted to the Council for approval.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Approvals

March 17, 2006 Agenda

Chairman Wright introduced the agenda for the March 17, 2006 meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Nicki Stajcar, seconded by Anne Kinsel, the Council unanimously approved the March 17, 2006 Council meeting agenda.

January 20, 2006 Minutes

Chairman Wright introduced the minutes for the January 20, 2006 meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Jeff Gronstal, seconded by Diane Foss, the Council unanimously approved the January 20, 2006 Council meeting minutes.

Nominating Committee Report

Doug Keast, speaking on behalf of Lila Starr, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported having several nominations to present to the Council.

There are six state agencies that would like to re-appoint their members: Bill Brand – Department of Human Rights, Diane Foss – Department of Economic Development, Jeff Gronstal – Department of Public Health, Lila Starr – Department of Human Services, Ray Morley – Department of Education, and Bob Steben – Department of Veteran Affairs.

Motion: On a motion by Doug Keast, seconded by Amy Knudsen, the Council unanimously approved to extend the terms of Patrick Nestvedt and Kevin Squires to 2008 to follow the rest of the Council members.

Motion: On a motion by Doug Keast, seconded by Diane Foss, the Council unanimously approved to reappoint Kelly Foltz, Ann Hearn, Judy Songer, and Christine Canganelli to the Council with their terms ending in 2008.

Motion: On a motion by Doug Keast, seconded by Bob Steben, the Council unanimously approved to appoint Mike Wood, Jennie Manders, and Kelsey Ruzzi to the Council with their terms ending in 2008.

Lyle Schwery summarized to the Council each of these new members background. Mike Wood works for Siouxland Mental Health and was the coordinator of the first Siouxland Homeless Sleepout in November. Jennie Manders works for Project Concern and is involved in writing their Continuum of Care Application. Kelsey Ruzzi is the Homeless Liaison for Burlington Schools.

Motion: On a motion by Doug Keast, seconded by Amy Knudsen, the Council unanimously approved to appoint James Walker, who is a mental-health counselor, to the Council with his term ending in 2007 to replace Amy Correia who has resigned.

Lyle Schwery reported to the Council a few issues concerning the Council's member composition that HUD is looking for in this year's CoC Application. HUD would like the CoC's decision-making entity to be composed of 65% from the private sector and 35% from the public sector. Our current make-up has a 60/40% ratio. This difference will need to be addressed before next year's CoC Application is submitted. It was suggested that a definition of public and private sector be obtained from HUD before then. HUD would also like the Chair and Co-chair to alternately be represented by the private and public sector and be rotated every 2 years. The Executive Officers will be elected at the May 19th meeting.

Policy and Public Awareness Committee Report

Christine Canganelli, Chair of the Policy and Public Awareness Committee, reported to the Council that the committee is still working on a draft of the Plan to End Homelessness in Iowa.

Research and Analysis Committee Report

Al Axeen, Chair of the Research and Analysis Committee, reported the Committee will follow-up on the interim study for the May 19th meeting.

Chairman Wright informed the Council that Ray Morley prepared a request for support for the State agencies for the next State of Iowa Homeless Study. The Executive Order mandates that the Council have this study prepared every two years.

HMIS Committee Report

Julie Eberbach reported to the Council that data retrieval for the Annual Assessment Report for HUD from providers is coming along smoothly.

Julie Eberbach informed the Council that the CoC Application is now asking for data quality along with level of participation for each project.

Julie Eberbach informed the Council that the Institute is now putting HUD's webcast for SHP Application training on their computer labs for your availability.

Motion: On a motion by Diane Foss, seconded by Amy Knudsen, the Council unanimously approved, with Donna Phillips abstaining, to ask the Governor's Office if Dean Wright, as the Chair of this Council can request an Attorney General's Opinion concerning the data issues the Violence Against Women Act has posed.

Reports & Activities

Lyle Schwery informed the Council that the Homeless Assistance Program Grant (ESG/HSOG) awards will be sent out in April.

Old Business

There was no 'old business' to be discussed.

New Business

Amy Knudsen informed the Council that there are several areas of concern with the Re-Authorization of the McKinney Veto Act that will greatly impact states with rural communities and Iowa particularly. One area of concern is the two definitions of homelessness that are used by different areas of federal government; HUD does not allow persons doubled-up or living in hotels to be counted.

Motion: On a motion by Amy Knudsen, seconded by Jeff Gronstal, the Council unanimously approved to send a letter to HUD on behalf of the Council asking HUD to change their definition of homelessness to match the one used by the McKinney Veto Act.

Amy Knudsen informed the Council of a hearing concerning SF 1801 on March 30, 2006 in Washington, D.C.

Motion: On a motion by Amy Knudsen, seconded by Anne Kinsel, the Council unanimously approved to send a letter to Senator Reed's Office, with a copy to Senator Grassley and Senator Harkin's Offices, asking for representation to be at the SF 1801 hearing.

Amy Knudsen informed the Council that Jim Cain has resigned his position at the Iowa Coalition for Housing and Homeless. Amy has been appointed the Interim Director.

Nicki Stajcar informed the Council of the Annual Governor's Conference on Aging to be held May 22nd & 23rd, 2006.

Doug Keast informed the Council of the need for Vista Volunteers for 3 of the New Iowan Centers around the State for a one year term. These volunteers will receive a living allowance and a tuition award.

Kate Ridge asked for a letter of support from the Council for a collaborate SAMSA Grant that is being prepared in Scott County for co-current disorders. Chairman Wright will send a letter of support on behalf of the Council since this parallels the Council's mission.

Dennis Dietz gave the Council a summary of the State Housing Trust Fund status.

Tony Smithart informed the Council that if anyone has a veteran around the state in need of assistance for getting back to work, contact his office or Jean Brown at Churches United. This assistance can be obtained without the veteran having to come to Des Moines.

Next Meeting Date

Chairman Wright reminded members of the next Council meeting date, Friday, May 19, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

Motion: On a motion by Jeff Gronstal, seconded by Doug Keast, the Council unanimously approved to adjourn the Council meeting at 11:16 am.

Dated this 19th day of May, 2006,

Respectfully submitted:

Approved as to form:

Karen Winchester, Administrative Assistant
Iowa Finance Authority

Doug Keast, Secretary
Iowa Council on Homelessness